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General and complete disarmament

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, the General Assembly would:

(a) Invite all States that had not yet done so to sign, or, after entry into force, to accede to, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

(b) Welcome the generous offer of the Government of Mozambique to act as host for the First Meeting of the States Parties;

(c) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article 11(2) of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the First Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999;

(d) Invite all States Parties to the First Meeting of the States Parties and, according to article 11(4) of the Convention, States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend this meeting as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure.

2. It may be recalled that in the note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.1 (A/C.1/52/L.47), the responsibilities of the United Nations and the Secretary-General under the terms of the Convention were outlined. By operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33 on the same subject, it would be necessary to enter into a host country agreement with the Government of Mozambique, since the meeting would be held away from an established

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headquarters. Following the preparatory meetings, initiated in response to General Assembly resolution 52/38 A and in fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General by the Convention and the terms of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, it would be necessary to dispatch to Mozambique a planning mission consisting of one Legal Officer, one Conference Services Officer and one Political Affairs Officer to determine the requirements for holding the meeting in Maputo. It is expected that the team would meet with officials of the Government of Mozambique, draw up a host country agreement and evaluate on-site conference requirements in order to determine the cost estimates for holding the meeting in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 5 relates to programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001[1] (part of which is proposed to be subsumed under new programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in its report on the work of its thirty-eighth session[2]). Provision has been made under section 2B, Disarmament, and section 1B, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[3] for related activities envisaged under programme 26.

4. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, the Secretary-General foresees requirements for Secretariat assistance and substantive support services for its implementation. No modifications would, however, be required in the activities under section 2B, Disarmament, or section 1B, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, as the activities to be undertaken under the draft resolution fall under programme 26, Disarmament (part of which is proposed to be subsumed under programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in its report[2]).

5. The cost of a planning mission is estimated at $18,000. Although at this stage it is not possible to estimate the cost of holding the meeting in Maputo, as is the case with other meetings held away from their established headquarters, it is expected that indirect costs such as local transport, local personnel and direct costs such as travel to Maputo, including excess baggage, subsistence allowance, terminal expenses, expendable supplies and other materials and communications and miscellaneous expenses, may be incurred.

6. Subject to the terms of the host country agreement to be entered into with the Government of Mozambique, it is anticipated that all costs associated with the meeting, including the planning mission, would be met by States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments adjusted appropriately, as spelled out in article 14 of the Convention. The practice followed in the United Nations is to levy a charge, at a rate of 13 per cent of expenditures for such activities, to defray its administrative and other support costs incurred in their implementation. Accordingly, such an expense would be borne also by the States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein.

7. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practice that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may be undertaken only when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received from the States Parties in advance. In this connection, States Parties have recently been requested to make advance payments, which will be offset against their final shares of the total actual cost of the planning mission and the meeting, to be held in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999.

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum* (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16).

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/52/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.